

# Shruthi Floats an Idea

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Level 3



"It's Grow a Plant Month, everyone!"

Sukanya Miss said.

Everyone in the class was excited.

Everyone but Shruthi.

Shruthi hated the soil. She did not like touching it.  
She did not like the earthworms that wriggled in it.  
And she hated how the soil made her hands feel icky.





"How was your day, Shruthi?" Appa asked.

Shruthi dropped to the floor. "We have to grow a plant, Pa, and I hate touching soil!"

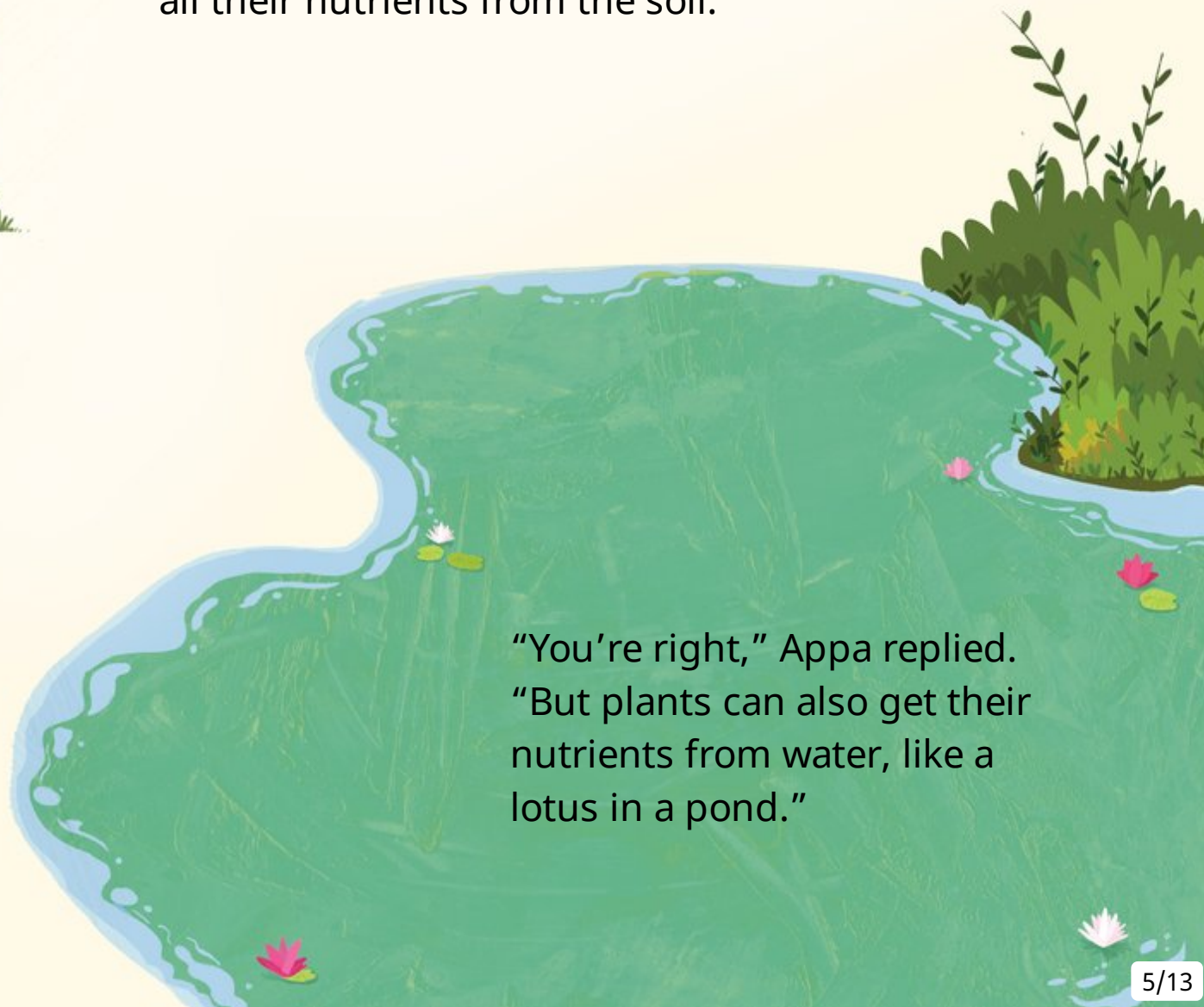
"You don't need soil to grow plants," Appa replied.







"But plants need air, water, soil and sunlight to grow!" said Shruthi. "Sukanya Miss told us that they get all their nutrients from the soil."



"You're right," Appa replied. "But plants can also get their nutrients from water, like a lotus in a pond."

"Can I really grow a plant in water?" Shruthi asked.

"Yes," Appa replied. "All you need is a sapling, some coconut husk, a big plastic bottle and some plant nutrients to help it grow."





Appa cut a bottle in two halves.

Shruthi filled the bottom half  
with water and mixed in  
some nutrients.





She flipped the top half of the bottle and put the coconut husk in it.

Finally, she placed the sapling in the top half.







Shruthi took care of her plant every day.



Three weeks later,  
she took her plant to class.

Everyone was surprised.  
“Shruthi, how is your plant  
so big?” Sukanya Miss  
asked.

“It’s because I grew it in  
water, Miss!” Shruthi replied.



No one in her class had seen a plant grown in water before. No one even knew it was possible.

“Your plant is so beautiful, Shruthi!” her classmate said.

Shruthi was prouder than ever.

## How did Shruthi grow her plant in water?

Shruthi grew her plant using hydroponics.

Hydroponics is the method of growing plants in water.

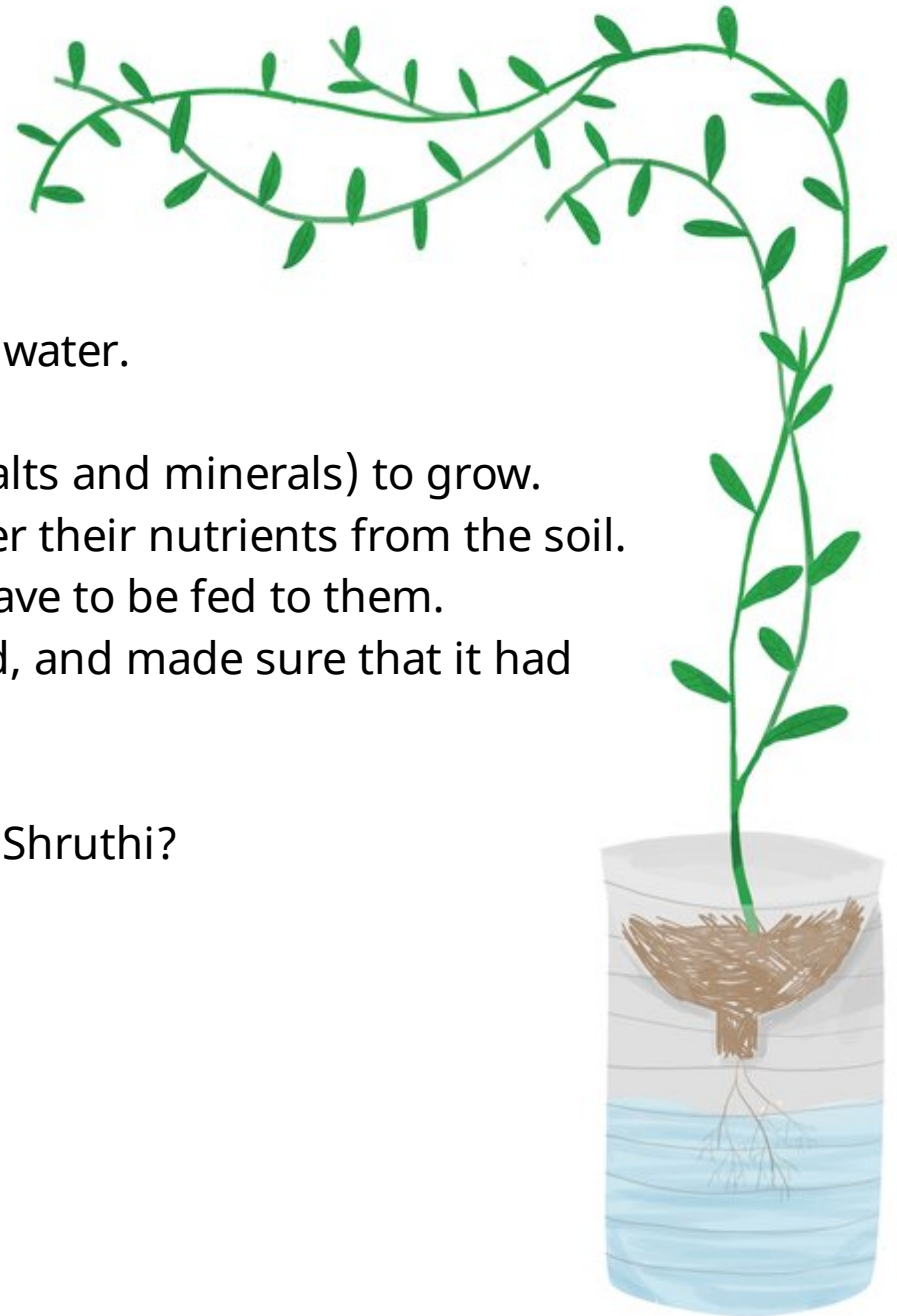
Plants need air, water, sunlight and nutrients (salts and minerals) to grow.

When they are planted in the ground, they gather their nutrients from the soil.

But when plants are grown in water, nutrients have to be fed to them.

Shruthi gave her plant all the nutrients it needed, and made sure that it had enough water, sunlight, air and space to grow.

Would you like to grow a plant in water, just like Shruthi?





# How to Grow a Plant in a Bottle

## You will need:

A 2 litre soda bottle

A pair of scissors (make sure you ask an adult to help you with the scissors)

Money plant sapling

Coconut husk

Water-soluble plant nutrients  
(you can use sugar as a substitute)

Drinking water

## You will have to:

Cut the bottle into two halves (ask an adult to do this for you).

Pour water into the bottom half of the bottle and mix in some nutrients.

Flip the top half of the bottle and place it on the bottom half.

Fit the coconut husk into the top half of the bottle.

Place the money plant sapling in the bottle. Make sure the roots touch the water.

Make sure to keep the bottle somewhere it gets plenty of sunlight.



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(English)

Shruthi has to grow a plant. But she doesn't want to grow it in soil.  
Is there any other way?

This is a Level 3 book for children who are ready to read on their own.



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